

National Training for Colombia on Decommissioning Oil & Gas Infrastructure

17-20 September 2024

Fairfield Hotel
Bogota, Colombia

FIELD VISIT WRITE UP

Introduction

The UN Environment, in partnership with Colombia's Ministry of Environment (MinAmbiente), is organizing a National Training Course on the Decommissioning of Retired Oil and Gas Facilities and Infrastructure for 17-20 September 2024. MinAmbiente identified this training as a government priority area requiring capacity building, as managing the country's aging oil and gas infrastructure was a critical need emphasized in UNEP's institutional Capacity Needs Assessment (2022) for improved environmental management in the sector in Colombia.

Field visit

To enhance the learning experience of the training course, a half-day field visit has been scheduled for **Thursday, 19 September** 2024, to both the [Petrobras Plant \(midstream\)](#) and the [Petrobras La Palma Service Station](#) in Bogota. These visits aim to familiarize participants with the various components that need decommissioning in petroleum facilities and to address key risk factors such as worker safety and soil contamination. Additionally, participants will gather information for their Scoping Report sections/chapters as part of their group activities.

The bus will depart promptly from the workshop venue (Fairfield Hotel) at 8:00 AM. Please arrive at the hotel by **7:30 AM**. Accessing these facilities requires participants to wear each of the following items:

- Hard hat with a **chin strap**
- Hard-toe / safety-toe boots
- Workpants ("jeans")
- Long-sleeved shirt
- Protective eyewear



The facility host company, Petrobras, is strictly requiring each visitor to wear/utilize every protective item above. Participants without any of these items will not be allowed access to the facilities.

Key learning objectives

As part of the workshop's overall learning objectives, participants are expected to achieve the following during the field visit:

1. Understand general safety concerns and precautions to take when touring a petroleum facility.
2. Identify common components slated for decommissioning and understand how to manage associated risks, such as worker safety and soil contamination.
3. Gather information for the assigned Scoping Report as part of the group activities (sections / chapters will assigned the previous day).

Proposed itinerary

Time	Activity	Location / address	Contact
8:00	Depart hotel / headcount of participants	Fairfield Hotel: Cra. 51 # 24-62 (51 st street hotel exit)	Paula Solarte
8:15	Arrive and go to conference room to receive security briefing	Petrobras Plant (Midstream): Cra. 50 # 19-42	Paula Solarte / Petrobras staff
9:00	Group 1 tour facility / Group 2 stay in conference room with Diego Corredor	-	Deigo Corredor / Petrobras staff
10:00	Group 2 tour facility / Group 1 stay in conference room with Diego Corredor	-	Deigo Corredor / Petrobras staff
11:00	Depart Petrobras plant / headcount of participants	Petrobras Plant (Midstream): Cra. 50 # 19-42	Paula Solarte
11:20	Arrive at La Palma gas station	Petrobras La Palma Service Station: Cra. 68 # 13-87	Diego Corredor
12:15	Depart La Palma gas station / headcount for participants	Petrobras La Palma Service Station: Cra. 68 # 13-87	Paula Solarte
12:45	Arrive back at hotel	Fairfield Hotel: Cra. 51 # 24-62 (51 st street hotel entrance)	-
13:00	Lunchtime		

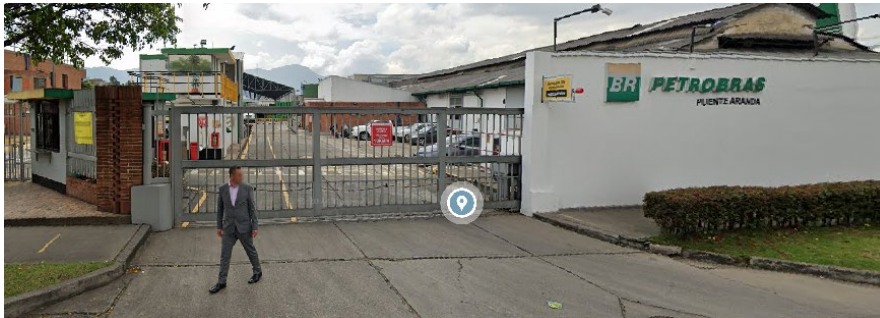
Decommissioning retired petroleum facilities

Decommissioning retired petroleum facilities and infrastructure is crucial for protecting the environment and ensuring human safety, as it involves safely dismantling and removing equipment that, if left unattended, can lead to soil and water contamination and air pollution (including invisible greenhouse gas emissions), posing hazards to local communities. The process typically includes pre-decommissioning site assessments, the removal of equipment, cleaning or remediating contaminated land, and post-abandonment monitoring. In Colombia, laws such as Decree 1076 of 2015 mandate the decommissioning of retired oil and gas infrastructure, requiring operators (companies) to follow strict protocols for environmental restoration and risk mitigation to protect both ecological systems and public health.

Petrobras Plant (site visit Part 1)

- Owner: Petrobras Colombia Combustibles S.A.
- Coordinates: [4.634451968168386, -74.10090249135953](#)

- Address: AK 50 No. 19 – 42
- Location: Puente Aranda



Considerations for eventual decommissioning

The Petrobras Plant, involved in the production of lubricant bases and fuel distribution, has a history of environmental impacts on soil and groundwater caused by agrochemicals from activities preceding the plant's operation. Additionally, the site has been affected by hydrocarbons more recently. Although the plant is currently operational, these factors will be taken into account when it is eventually scheduled for decommissioning.

Petrobras La Palma Service Station (site visit Part 2)

- Owner: Petrobras Colombia Combustibles S.A.
- Coordinates: [4.639511434121063, -74.11652636041632](#)
- Address: AK 68 13 87
- Municipality: Fontibón



Considerations for decommissioning

The Petrobras La Palma Service Station, which is currently not in use and awaiting decommissioning, experienced events in 2012 and 2014 related to potential tank leaks, leading to site investigations that confirmed soil and groundwater contamination. MinAmbiente requested further investigations to assess the extent of the impact, but the station has opted for dismantling with a focus on risk management. An upcoming environmental inspection will outline the condition of the equipment and facilities, the dismantling approach, and the necessary points for investigation and sampling.

Group exercise instructions

Objective: Each group should prepare an overview of one, or two, Decommissioning Plan chapters. The contents of such plans follow best practice and the Colombia regulator's requirements.

Terrestrial oil and gas infrastructure that will be considered for decommissioning will be visited during the workshop's field visit activity (morning of Day 3). Participants will tour two oil and gas infrastructure installations in Bogota, Colombia: 1) tank farm/oil mixing plant and 2) petrol station.

Chapter/s assigned to each group

Group 1 – Policy, legal and institutional framework

Group 2 – Description of items to be decommissioned + Inventory of materials

Group 3 – Removal and disposal options + Selected removal and disposal options

Group 4 – Environmental and socio-economic assessment and impact + Details of monitoring and follow-up

Group 5 – Identification of and consultations with stakeholder

Approach

(a) Before the field visit, groups should think about what questions to ask the visit guides at the two sites.

(b) During the field visit, groups should collect enough information relevant to their specific chapter/s to fill a single flipchart sheet with the 'main elements'.

(c) The plant tours will be divided into two teams of 12-15 people (two or three groups); each tour will last approximately one hour.

(d) While one team is on the planned tour, the remaining team will be presented the history of the plant site by Diego Corredor (Bogota SDA) and have the opportunity to ask further questions in the conference room.

(e) Groups can search the internet for additional information.

(f) After returning to the hotel and lunch, groups will then have one hour to prepare their presentations and 10 minutes to present the 'main elements' of their chapter/s.

(g) Group presentations will be judged by a panel of three from the course organisers, based on four criteria: adherence to the time limit, evidence of teamwork, technical content, and visual clarity of the presentation.